



NSPCC Independent Assessment of the  
Implementation of FA Safeguarding 365 for

# Nottinghamshire FA

Report

Final Report

Date of Assessment

9<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Date of Report

20<sup>th</sup> March 202

## Assessment Outcome Summary

Nottinghamshire FA was assessed against the Safeguarding 365 criteria for 2023/24 on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023, in person at the Counties offices in Chilwell, Nottingham.

A summary of the assessment schedule:

Assessment	Date	Outcome
Self- assessment completed	21 <sup>st</sup> February 2023	Meets the Standard
Independent assessment	9 <sup>th</sup> March 2023	Meets the Standard

Following:

- > a review of the evidence submission on Smartsheet,
- > a one day 'in person' assessment

the NSPCC is satisfied that Nottinghamshire FA **'meets the Standard'**

Standard Area	Assessment Rating
Governance & Leadership	Meets the Standard
Operational Delivery	Meets the Standard
Listening to the Voice of and Supporting u18s	Meets the Standard
Football Disciplinary	Meets the Standard
Case Management	Meets the Standard
Compliance & Monitoring	Meets the Standard

## Summary of assessment

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NSPCC independent assessors conducted both an in-depth analysis of evidence submitted to Smartsheet and a one day 'in person' assessment of Nottinghamshire County Football Association and concluded that the Safeguarding 365 criteria for 2023/24 had been fully met.

In addition to evidencing that all specific criteria were fully met, the assessors identified several areas of good practice. Nottinghamshire FA should be commended for the work they have done in the following areas:

- > The board safeguarding champion (Tracey Newcombe) is a strong and effective link between the board and staff team. She offers specialist safeguarding knowledge, advice and support and is able to keep safeguarding high on the agenda at board meetings. Tracey has also provided wider, more therapeutic support to all the staff over the past year and is mindful of the wellbeing of the wider staff team. The Board also now has a wellbeing champion.
- > The DSO has strong and effective links with club welfare officers and clubs. and is able to keep safeguarding at the forefront. She has strong links with local LADOs, the FA case management team and Broxtowe Women's Project which further enhances the safeguarding response and offer for clubs.
- > The CFA have 'Earl' the mascot to deliver key safeguarding messages at events, clubs and presentations.

It was clear to assessors that all staff interviewed during the assessment had a very strong understanding of their specific safeguarding responsibilities and excellent clarity of the organisations overall commitment to safeguarding. Assessors were very impressed by the progress that has been made over the last year, which demonstrates how safeguarding is being further embedded across the County. The evidence of embedding is clear with the rise in lower-level concerns being reported. Whilst this may be a challenge to manage in terms of workload, it is a clear indication that more volunteers in clubs are recognising and reporting concerns which can only be a positive thing.

The NSPCC would like to congratulate the CEO, DSSL, DSO, Board, and wider staff team for the commitment to safeguarding evidenced during the assessment.

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